

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 CU-02 NSC-05 /066 W
-----061937Z 085307 /50

R 061606Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4040
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04806

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, XH
SUBJECT: WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

REF: MOSCOW 7561
THE UK DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED THE FOLLOWING ANALYSIS OF
THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE MAY 25-26 WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINIS-
TERS' MEETING:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THIS MEETING IS PRESUMABLY
THE LAST JOINT COMMENT ON CSCE MATTERS BY THE PACT BE-
FORE THE JUNE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR BELGRADE. IT SHEDS
LITTLE NEW LIGHT ON WARSAW PACT INTENTIONS, BUT CONFIRMS
WHAT HAVE BEEN DISCERNED AS THEIR MAIN PREOCCUPATIONS,
WHILE LEAVING VAGUE MANY POINTS OF THEIR POLICY AND TAC-
TICS.

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2. BY RELATING THE PROPOSALS FOR NO FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AND FOR THREE ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES TO THE IM-
PLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT, THE COMMUNIQUE IMPLIES THAT
THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE RAISED IN SOME WAY AT BELGRADE:
BUT BY DISCUSSING THEM BEFORE ACTUALLY MENTIONING BELGRADE
IT AVOIDS CLARITY ON THIS POINT. THERE IS A HINT THAT

OTHER ECONOMIC SUBJECTS MAY BE PROPOSED FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES.

3. MOVING ON TO BELGRADE, THE COMMUNIQUE RECOGNIZES THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT MAY BE AMONG THE THINGS DISCUSSED. THE REFERENCE TO "CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE FINAL ACT" SEEMS TO CONFIRM THAT THE WARSAW PACT WILL RESIST ANY AMENDMENT TO THAT DOCUMENT, BUT LEAVES UNRESOLVED THE QUESTION WHETHER THEY WILL MAINTAIN THE LINE THAT BELGRADE IS MERELY A "CONSULTATIVE" MEETING, NOT EMPOWERED TO TAKE DECISIONS ENGAGING GOVERNMENTS. THE ASSERTION THAT A FAVORABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE IS NEEDED FOR BELGRADE, AND THE CLAIM THAT THE WRONG APPROACH CAN ONLY HOLD BACK IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT, ARE DESIGNED TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE WEST TO AVOID POLEMICS BEFORE AND AT BELGRADE TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR BLAMING THE WEST IF THERE IS A ROW AT BELGRADE.

4. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FINAL ACT AS A "LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF ACTION" PROVIDES A HANDLE FOR THE WEST TO USE WHEN SEEKING AGREEMENT TO A FURTHER REVIEW MEETING AFTER BELGRADE.

END TEXT. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO04806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770685/aaaacwnf.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: b1223984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 7561, THE UK DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED THE, THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE MAY 25-26 WARS, TERS' MEETING
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2255938
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
TAGS: XH, NATO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BERLIN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1223984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009